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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of history and ever present to all believers, in contemporary darkness we readily turn on lights.

In spiritual darkness of doubt and confusion, You can send forth a spark of inspiration and grace that will enlighten minds and warm hearts to respond to Your love for Your people and praise Your deeds in Sacred Scripture.

Fill this day with Your blessings. As the first day of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights is celebrated by Jews. Christians tonight will light a Christmas tree on the lawn of the Capitol.

Eternal Father of us all, fill Your children with the delight that comes from light. May we walk no longer in the darkness of fear and ignorance, but join together in mutual understanding and peace, for our eternal hope is placed in You, now and forever.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. AKIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 863. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

S. 1327. An act to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100-696, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD).

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### A NEW ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, thank you for the work that you and

Chairman DINGELL have done in bringing forth to the House for a vote today an opportunity for a comprehensive energy policy.

For too long, we've focused on energy for the past, on energy sources and products for the world as it was or as some wanted it to be. This is an opportunity for us to deal with the energy challenges of today and for the future.

The bill that comes forward will be, for the first time since 1975, an opportunity to significantly increase vehicle fuel mileage standards. It will contain a renewable portfolio standard that emulates what has happened in over half our States across the country, to be able to jump-start renewable energy. It will be financed by redirecting tax breaks from the largest oil companies who don't need taxpayer support to produce oil profitably, and it will be directed to the energy sources of the future, renewables, which do need this help to bring their opportunities to scale.

I hope my colleagues will arise to meet this challenge. Vote to pass this legislation. Our national security, economic stability, and environmental survival depends upon it.

### THE DEMOCRATS ARE LATE

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, we all have to struggle from time to time with the bad practice of being late. We don't like to be late, and the reason we don't is, of course, when we're late, we inconvenience somebody. If you're late to the car pool, a couple of people have to sit there and wait and you've got to choke your breakfast down a little bit quicker so you don't inconvenience someone.

But you know the Democrats have been very late. But when the Congress

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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